



FEMA



Wisconsin and FEMA to Conduct Joint Damage Assessments

The State of Wisconsin has requested Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) as a result of flooding and severe weather that occurred from August 17 to September 14, 2018.

Assessments for Public Assistance have been requested to begin on September 24, 2018, in Adams, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon Counties, as well as for state agencies.

Assessments for Individual Assistance have been requested to begin on September 24, in Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon Counties.

A joint FEMA/Wisconsin Emergency Management organizational meeting will take place prior to the start of assessments. It is expected that multiple teams will work concurrently to conduct assessments in the impacted counties. There is no set time or schedule for the team visits, as they will proceed as the workload and time allows until assessments are completed.

About the Preliminary Damage Assessment Process

State, federal and local emergency officials will be working together to assess the impact of the flooding.

The data collected can be used by the state to determine if the extent of damage is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments to recover from the disaster and will help make the decision whether or not to seek a Stafford Act disaster declaration.

The state and FEMA PDA team members rely on local officials to identify and describe damaged areas in their community. Local officials should contact their county emergency management staff who will work with Wisconsin Emergency Management to ensure potential damage is accounted for.

Anyone that has not done so already is encouraged to contact their local emergency manager or county emergency management agency to report their damages.

FEMA will follow the lead of state and local officials and will go where they want us to go to see the damage they want us to see. FEMA may not visit every community or every street that had damage, since we will be relying primarily on the locally reported damage assessments already gathered.

PDAs are no guarantee that a request for federal assistance will be made or granted. FEMA does not make a determination about a disaster declaration during a PDAs.

The factors considered when evaluating a state's request for a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act are spelled out in the Code of Federal Regulations 44, Section 206.48.

In addition, PDA team members will be available to county and local officials to answer questions about the potential eligibility of other costs.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

The PDA teams will be validating eligible damage incurred by eligible applicants to their primary residences. FEMA does consider the availability of insurance, and an applicant must file a claim for insurance if a policy is in effect. FEMA cannot duplicate assistance available from other sources, including other federal agencies.

For Individual Assistance (homeowners, renters and business owners), the PDA teams will be looking at a **variety of indicators** including:

- Extent of the damage to essential living areas of primary residences (both owned and rented);
- Amount of business losses;
- Threats to public health and safety;
- Numbers of people who were displaced and for how long;
- Extent of insurance coverage;
- Availability of community recovery resources;
- Voluntary agency/state program assistance;
- Concentration of damages;

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

The Public Assistance PDA teams will be validating eligible damage incurred by eligible applicants such as Tribes, local governments, utility co-ops, etc. FEMA does consider the availability of insurance, and an applicant must file a claim for insurance if a policy is in effect. FEMA cannot duplicate assistance available from other sources, including other federal agencies.

In the case of Public Assistance (emergency services and the repair/replacement of infrastructure and public facilities), the PDA teams will collect and review documentation relating to:

- Debris removal costs such as staff time, equipment usage and disposal fees;
- Damages to public infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, parks, public buildings, etc.) and the costs to repair/replace;
- Impact to critical facilities, such as utilities, hospitals, schools and fire/police departments;
- Costs relating to the response and recovery efforts, including police, fire and emergency services overtime, equipment usage, and flood fight expenses; and,
- Disruption of routine services;